

February 9, 2023

Re:HF586 (Frederick)

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Services Finance Committee,

We thank you for the opportunity to share Minnesota Social Service Association's support of HF586 which would appropriate funding to the Center for Rural Behavioral Health at Minnesota State University, Mankato to establish a mental health training clinic. The Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) is made up of over 4,000 health and human service professionals statewide. Our members cover the health and human service spectrum —mental health providers, social workers, case managers, etc. —and are employed by for-profit and non-profit entities, as well as state and local government agencies. This clinic would meet a critical geographic service need for our members and their clients.

Among Minnesotans, the need for mental and behavioral health care services is high at a time where access is limited. Additionally, while residents of greater Minnesota have the same mental and behavioral health needs as those in the metro area, they have access to fewer providers who are trained to help. Investing in the Center for Rural Behavioral Health training clinic would help grow the number of behavioral health professionals who will help serve this need for the current, and next generation of residents of southern Minnesota.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. Please reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns at msancartier@mnssa.org.

Sincerely,

Michelle SanCartier
Minnesota Social Service Association
MSSA Director of Public Policy & Advocacy

Beth Ringer
Minnesota Social Service Association
MSSA Executive Director